

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

This article anchors several endings and some beginnings. We're coming to the close of the year-long ARRL Centennial celebration. A wildly popular event it has turned out to be. Further in this issue are some listings with rankings of members. Guess we'll have to go back to searching and working real DX in January.

I had a notable QSO a few weeks ago. A guy (a 5 point Volunteer Examiner) was calling CQ Centennial and working a good but relaxed rate and I did a few short exchanges with him. He spoke of how getting on the air to give out points felt like an addiction he couldn't control and that he'd be thankful when the year was over. I know the feeling. The experience of running W1AW/4 TN twice and W100AW/4 at Huntsville Hamfest is a remarkable experience of being DX. I'm sure many club members share the sentiment.

So on Thanksgiving weekend between college football games I jumped in and called CQ Centennial. As a lowly ARRL member I'm only worth a point. Didn't matter. Someone spotted me and healthy pile-ups ensued. Actually I did it for two reasons - the joy of running and I need a few more hundred points to pull my score above 15000 for the third-tier award. Anyone who wants a last shot at being DX from home should try this on the bands & mode of their

choice. Great fun.

We close 2014 with club membership higher than a year before and with the reminder that dues are due. Bill KD8IGK has set up an easy payment scheme with PayPal on the NADXC.org website. One does not need a PayPal account - a credit card will work. Bill will be away on business travel and unavailable at the Christmas Party for receiving dues payments.

We close 2014 with the Christmas party in a few days - next Tuesday to be exact. Location is TerraNova's - in the same shopping center as Gigaparts at 6PM. Hope to see many of you and the XYL's there. We'll be awarding the DX'er of the year plaque.

We open 2015 with the K1N Navassa Island activation on the schedule sometime in January. While we're shivering in the Alabama cold, hands warming over the tube chimneys, we'll be waiting to work the guys in Bermuda shorts at the Top of the Most Wanted list.

Further into 2015 we look forward to more DX - and pray for Cycle 25 to give us a few more bursts.

73, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Mark N4BCD

Christmas Party

The NADXC Christmas Party will be held at TerraNova, near Gigaparts, at 6:00 pm next Tuesday, December 9th. There will be no program—just fun. See you there!



KP1/KP5 Thanks

Dear North Alabama DX Club,

On behalf of the The KP1-5 Project's Navassa Island DXpedition -2015, thank you for your kind contribution of \$200.00 USD.

It is dedicated and generous DXers like you that make DXpeditions such as this possible and we are pleased that you are now a member of the KP1-5 Project.

One of the goals of the Navassa Island DXpedition-2015 is to provide at least one QSO to every DXer who needs this #1 ranked DXCC entity for a NEW one. Also, we want to provide as many band/mode contacts needed by DXers worldwide. We believe we have the plan, the team and the equipment to make this happen!

Your contribution will help make all this a reality and not only our team of

DXpeditioners, but DXers world-wide...THANK YOU!

See you in the pile-ups!

For the team,

Mike Thomas, NA5U
Secretary,

The KP1-5 Project

Got Squirrels?

By John Stensby, N5DF

A few nights ago, I fired up on 40mtrs only to find a dead short in the coax leading to the 40mtr rotary dipole. Being dark outside, I hooked up the AIM4170 in TDR mode to evaluate the problem.

Figure 1 below is the TDR scan. As you can see, about 10.3 feet down the coax, the driving point impedance goes from about 50 to almost 0 Ohms !! (You rarely need a TDR. But when you do, you need one bad!).

The next morning, I went outside and inspected the coax (DXE400max) going to the rotary dipole. A few feet beyond the house, I found where squirrels had done their work. As you can see from figure 2, the coax is chewed about half-

way through (even the center conductor is about half gone!).

The 40mtr antenna coax is only about 3.5 years old. Other than the squirrel damage, it is in good shape. So, using wire, solder and electrical tape, I spliced together the two damaged sections. The crude fix introduces an impedance discontinuity. However, on 40 mtrs (7Mhz), the discontinuity will not "hurt" too much.

So yes, this is war!

For the last couple of years, squirrels have been chewing up my deck, house, chain link fence and everything else that they can fit into their mouths.

With my pellet rifle, I've shot dead two of the furry chewers. But, this is a war that I cannot win.

Examine your coax and exterior wiring. You may be in for a surprise.

73,

John, n5df

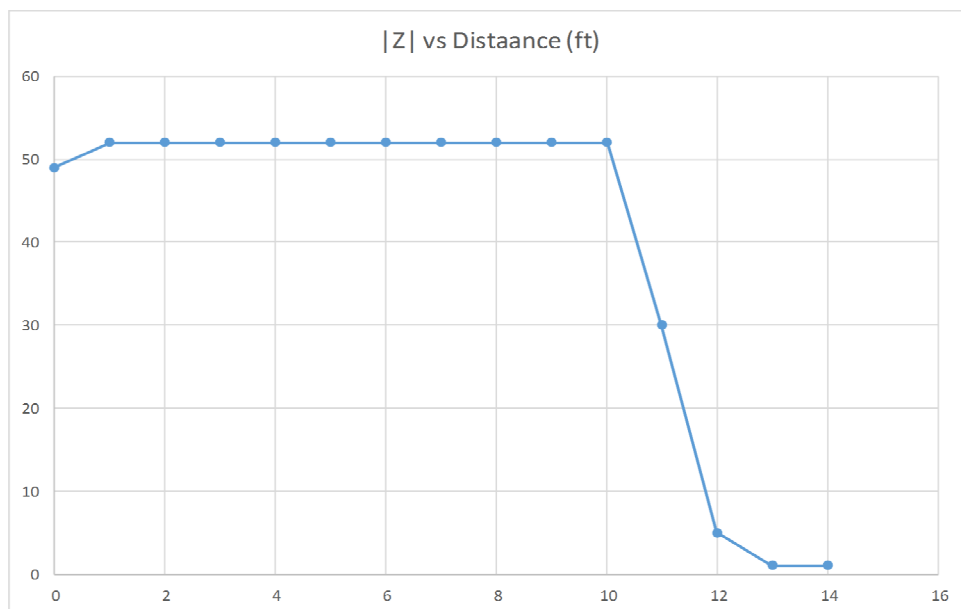


Fig. 1—The dead short is very dead indeed.



Fig. 2—Those little stinkers certainly have sharp teeth!

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Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

No, not we're not talking about cruising down the highway giving out "59 I-65". The year-long ARRL Centennial celebration, with state by state activations of W1AW have so far generated 2,910,258 QSO's. That's an average of **9100 QSO's PER DAY of activity!** And that figure does not include the Centennial Points Challenge where individual League members work each other for points.

With the finish line 25 days away, to the right are the top standings from the W1AW leaderboard filtered for AL and with TN club members edited into the list.

The figures in both the following tables were taken from <https://centennial-qso-party.arrl.org/leaderboard.php> on December 5, 2014, 3:00 PM. There are 91621 rankings with uncounted numbers of ties. The League knows the total participation but has not published the figure.

It's worth noting that 2/3 of the November activations have not been uploaded. We're not likely to see final rankings until the end of January.

Operation	QSOs	Start	Finish
W1AW/1/ME	W	12-03	12-09
W1AW/9/IL	W	12-03	12-09
W1AW/3/DE	W	11-26	12-02
W1AW/5/LA	W	11-26	12-02
W1AW/KP4	W	11-26	12-02
W1AW/4/FL	46,537	11-19	11-25
W1AW/5/AR	W	11-19	11-25
W1AW/1/RI	W	11-12	11-18
W1AW/5/MS	24,119	11-12	11-18
W1AW/0/KS	W	11-05	11-11
W1AW/7/WA	42,270	11-05	11-11
W1AW/KH8	22,388	11-02	11-18

W=Waiting for Upload

Rank	Call Sign	QSOs
33	N4KG	1587
52	AC4G	1511
62	KR4F	1447
78	N4JF	1406
176	KI4TWA	1080
229	NA4MM	989
410	W4NBS	771
484	N4KC	715
605	NN4R	638
793	ND4Q	556
836	KB5EZ	534
843	K4HAL	532
862	WN4AT	525
938	K5WP	491
951	KS4L	487
1077	WA8HSB	445
1093	KG4CUY	441
1132	N4BCD	431
1210	K4YMQ	413
1252	W4DSM	402
1326	KK4TE	389
1628	KI4SP	334
2058	KG4MPU	276
2077	N4SDB	274
2115	KJ4LTA	270
2115	NR4J	270
2195	K04SB	264

And below are the standings in the Centennial Points Challenge:

Rank	Call Sign	Points	QSOs
10	N4JF	130772	14939
104	KR4F	52870	4679
170	K5WP	44948	3919
329	KJ4LTA	34338	2802
438	N4KH	30910	3845
566	K4HAL	27107	3499
616	K04SB	26061	740
812	N4KG	22343	2990
874	KS4L	21622	2484
901	N4SDB	21100	668
962	AC4G	20239	2688
992	NN4R	19945	922
1138	AG4W	18290	2328
1334	ND4Q	16744	1312
1351	K4WI	16621	2767
1750	N4BCD	14103	1193
1818	K4YMQ	13765	925
1840	W4NBS	13617	1238
1849	KG4CUY	13542	1593
1857	K4AB	13483	2483
1899	NA4MM	13276	1346
1948	KY4F	13033	1682
1992	WA8HSB	12820	1404
2047	KC4HW	12557	2262
2086	WA4MIT	12305	1152
2220	W4DSM	11701	708
2278	KI4SP	11445	665

Contests for December

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters only

Dec. 5, 2200Z to Dec. 7, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Section. DX: RST

See page 68, Dec. QST OR
www.arrl.org/contests

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only

Dec. 13, 0000Z to Dec. 14, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus State or Province. DX: RST plus Ser. #

See page 68, Dec. QST OR
www.arrl.org/contests

Russian 160 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) 160 meters

Dec. 18, 2100Z to 2300Z

Exchange: RS(T)+ Serial # + square ID (see website)

See page 68, Dec. QST and
www.radio.ru/cq

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 20, 1400Z to Dec. 21 1400Z

Exchange: RST + SER. #

See page 68, Dec. QST and
www.9acw.org

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 20, 0000Z to Dec. 21, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone

See page 68, Dec. QST and
www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM

Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 27, 1500Z to Dec. 28, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Char. grid square

See page 68, Dec. QST and
www.kkn/stew

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 27, 0000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province

See page 68, Dec. QST and
www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) [+DOK or special code for DL]

See page 68, Dec. QST or
www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en

Worldwide Iron Ham contest (CW, SSB, & DIG), 80-10 meters

Dec. 27, 1200Z to Dec. 28, 1159Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus CQ Zone

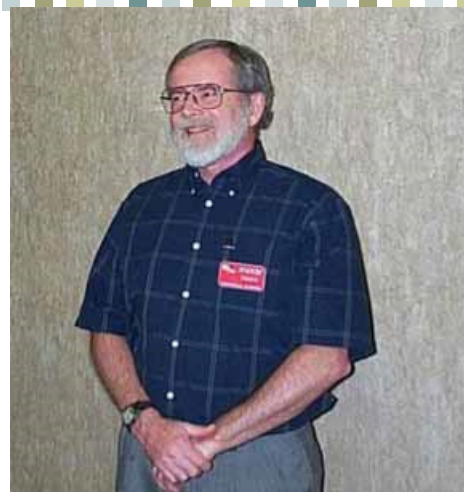
See: page 68, Dec. QST and <http://www.araucariadx.com>

RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 28, 0000Z to 1200Z

Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long (degrees)

See page 68, Dec. QST and
www.srr.ru



OTHERS

VU International DX Contest,

1200Z Dec 6 to 1200Z Dec 7

Ten Meter RTTY Contest,

0000Z - 2359Z Dec 7

SARL Digital contest,

1300Z – 1600Z Dec. 7

Run for the Bacon,

0200Z – 0400Z Dec 15

ARRL RTTY Roundup,

1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4

EUCW 160m Contest,

2000Z, Jan 3 to 0700Z, Jan 4

DARC 10-Meter Contest,

0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

See also: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal>

Chuck, N4NM